WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto; and

if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.

4.   The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.

5.   The method of claim 2 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier.

8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

determining whether the case identifier corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE.

9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.

10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein the predetermined prefix is a negative expression.

12.   A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the case identifier identifies an analysis mode of the circuit analysis tool.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the analysis mode is a power analysis mode.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the analysis mode is a signal analysis mode.

17.   A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis.

18. A method for use by a circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the method comprising:

determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis;

if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix, determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case;

if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto; and

if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

24. The method of claim 18 wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising, if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command.

26. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

means for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

27. The tool of claim 26 wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command.

28. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool.

29. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file.

30. The tool of claim 27 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.

31. The tool of claim 30 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

32. The tool of claim 26 further comprising:

means for determining whether a case identifier of the configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

33. The tool of claim 32 further comprising means for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

34. The tool of claim 26 further comprising:

means for determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

means for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix.

35. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

means for applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

36. The tool of claim 35 further comprising means for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

37. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

means for removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix.

38. A circuit analysis tool for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database, the tool comprising:

means for determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

means for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix;

means for determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix;

means for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case;

means for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

means for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

39.   A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a circuit analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE;

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.

40.   The computer-readable medium of claim 39 wherein
the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of
configuration data included in the configuration command.

41.   The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein
the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command
is an external tool.

42.   The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein
the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command
is a global configuration file.

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file.

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43 wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs.

45. The computer-readable medium of claim 39 further having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a case identifier of the configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 45 further having stored thereon instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

47. The computer-readable medium of claim 39 further having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix; and

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix.

48. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a circuit analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case; and

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 further having stored thereon instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case.

50. A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a computer-readable medium analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions for determining whether a configuration command comprising configuration information to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix; and

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding CDE from the analysis if the configuration command includes the predetermined prefix.

51.   A computer-readable medium operable with a computer for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources to configuration data elements ("CDEs") stored in a database of a computer-readable medium analysis tool, the medium having stored thereon:

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a configuration command to be applied to a corresponding CDE includes a predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for determining whether a case identifier of a configuration command corresponds to a user-specified analysis case if the configuration command does not include the predetermined prefix;

instructions executable by the computer for comparing a data source indicator ("DSI") of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case;

instructions executable by the computer for applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE; and

instructions executable by the computer for disregarding the configuration command if the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE.